

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-24. (Canceled)

0.00 x 10<sup>-10</sup>

25. (currently amended) A method of making a circular  
blade for cutting a moving material web, the blade having a steel  
cutting edge, the method comprising the step of:  
coating a surface of the cutting edge at a treatment  
temperature between 180°C and 350°C by means of plasma with foreign  
ions to a depth between 50 µm and 500 µm.

26. (previously presented) The blade making method  
defined in claim 25 wherein the depth is between 100 µm and 200 µm.

27. (previously presented) The blade making method  
defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of  
imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to  
1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

28. (previously presented) The blade making method  
defined in claim 27 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200  
HV.

1 29. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein nat least the cutting edge is formed of  
3 a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 30. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-  
3 treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 31. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the foreign ions are of nitrogen,  
3 carbon, molybdenum, tungsten, and/or molybdenum.

*Handwritten notes: C, W, Mo, F, twb, 7*

1 32. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 31 wherein a portion of the molybdenum or tungsten  
3 ions in the foreign ions is greater than a portion of titanium  
4 ions.

1 33. (new) The blade making method defined in claim 25  
2 wherein the treatment temperature is between 220°C and 280°C.